

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-8, 22-24, 26-32, without prejudice, please add new Claims 33-49, and please amend Claims 1, 9, and 25 as provided in the following Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor, wherein the processor processes a request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file of a patient, wherein the processor determines whether an individual or entity is authorized to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the processor generates a notification report containing information regarding at least one of ~~the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's~~

~~healthcare file, wherein the notification report contains information regarding at least one of the individual or entity making the request who or which obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or modified, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, identification information regarding the individual or entity, a time and date of the request the individual or entity obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or modified, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, a reason for the request individual or entity obtaining, accessing, changing, altering, or modifying, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, a nature of any change, alteration, or modification, sought to be made or made to the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and information regarding a subject of, or an actual a change, alteration, or modification, sought to be made or made to the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file; and~~

a transmitter, wherein the transmitter transmits the notification report to a patient communication device of the patient via, on, or over, a communication network, and further wherein the notification report is transmitted to the patient communication device at least one of during, concurrently

with, at a same time as, and prior to a completion of, an at
least one of an accessing, an obtaining, a changing, an
altering, and a modifying, of information contained in the
patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file
by the individual or user, or at least one of during,
concurrently with, at a same time as, and prior to a
completion of, a processing of the request,~~and further~~
~~wherein the notification report is transmitted to the patient~~
~~communication device on or over at least one of the Internet~~
~~and the World Wide Web or on or over a wireless communication~~
~~network.~~

Claims 2-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus,
comprising:

a receiver for receiving information regarding a
restriction or limitation regarding an ability of an
individual or entity to at least one of access, obtain,
change, alter, and modify, information contained in a
patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file of
a patient, wherein the information regarding a restriction or
limitation is entered by the patient into a patient

communication device and is transmitted from a the patient
communication device, and further wherein the information
regarding a restriction or limitation is transmitted to the
receiver via, on, or over, at least one of the Internet and
the World Wide Web or via, on, or over, a wireless
communication network;

a memory device for storing the information regarding
~~the~~ a restriction or limitation; and

a processor for processing a request to at least one
of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information
contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's
healthcare file, wherein the processor processes the request
utilizing the information regarding ~~the~~ a restriction or
limitation, and further wherein the processor determines
whether an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing,
altering, and modification, of the information contained in
the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare
file is at least one of authorized, allowed, not authorized,
not allowed, and restricted, based on the information
regarding a restriction or limitation.

Claims 10-24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a memory device for storing information regarding a restriction or limitation regarding an ability of the individual or entity to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file ~~of a patient~~, wherein the information regarding a restriction or limitation is transmitted to the receiver from the patient communication device ~~of the patient~~,

wherein the processor processes the request utilizing the information regarding ~~the~~ a restriction or limitation and determines whether an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file is at least one of authorized, allowed, not authorized, not allowed, and limited or restricted.

Claims 26-32. (Canceled)

Claim 33. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the notification report is transmitted to the patient communication device via, on, or over, at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web or via, on, or over, a wireless communication network.

Claim 34. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus transmits the notification report to a communication device associated with at least one of a healthcare provider associated with the patient, a healthcare payer associated with the patient, and a healthcare insurance provider associated with the patient.

Claim 35. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file, is made by a healthcare provider associated with the patient to at least one of update a record or file, make a diagnosis, prescribe a treatment, provide a treatment plan or program, provide information to another provider, and submit insurance claim information.

Claim 36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and

modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file, is made by a healthcare payer or a healthcare insurance provider to process an insurance claim or to obtain information regarding the patient.

Claim 37. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file, is made by the patient to at least one of update a healthcare record or file, provide information to a healthcare provider, provide information to a healthcare payer or insurance provider, obtain treatment information, obtain healthcare provider information, obtain healthcare payer information, and obtain healthcare insurance provider information.

Claim 38. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor processes information for allowing and effectuating an accessing of, an obtaining of, a changing of, an alteration of, an updating of, and a modification of, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, by the individual or entity.

Claim 39. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus generates a second notification report containing information regarding at least one of an attempt to obtain, an attempt to access, an attempt to change, an attempt to alter, and an attempt to modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the apparatus transmits the second notification report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device of the patient.

Claim 40. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus receives a response to the notification report, wherein the response to the notification report is transmitted from the patient communication device, and further wherein the response to the notification report contains information for terminating or denying at least one of an accessing, an obtaining, a changing, an altering, and a modifying, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the apparatus terminates or denies the request.

Claim 41. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus stores information regarding any at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of

any information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, wherein the information regarding any at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of any information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file includes at least one of a time of, a reason or purpose for, a nature of, and a subject matter of, any change, alteration, or modification, to or regarding, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 42. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus generates an activity report containing information regarding an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, wherein the activity report is automatically generated by the apparatus at least one of weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, and annually, and further wherein the apparatus transmits the activity report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device of the patient.

Claim 43. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus generates an activity report containing information

regarding an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, or an attempted at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file during a pre-specified time period.

Claim 44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the activity report is automatically generated by the apparatus and automatically transmitted by the apparatus to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device of the patient at least one of weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, and annually.

Claim 45. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the information regarding a restriction or limitation involves restricting or limiting access to a portion or section of the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 46. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the information regarding a restriction or limitation involves restricting or limiting access to the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file or to a portion or section of the patient's healthcare record or the patient's

healthcare file for a designated purpose, wherein the designated purpose involves at least one of performing a diagnosis, obtaining a second opinion, verifying or disproving a condition or a pre-existing condition, submitting an insurance claim, and processing an insurance claim.

Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor generates a notification report containing information regarding the request, and further wherein the apparatus transmits the notification report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device of the patient or the apparatus transmits the notification report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device of the patient at least one of during, concurrently with, at a same time as, and prior to a completion of, an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file by the individual or user, or at least one during, concurrently with, at a same time as, and prior to a completion of, a processing of the request.

Claim 48. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor, wherein the processor processes a request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file of a patient, wherein the processor determines whether an individual or entity is authorized to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the processor generates a notification report containing information regarding the request, wherein the information regarding the request contains information regarding at least one of the individual or entity making the request, identification information regarding the individual or entity, a time and date of the request, a reason for the request, a nature of any change, alteration, or modification, sought to be made or made to the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and information regarding a subject of a change, alteration, or modification, sought to be made or made to the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file; and

a transmitter, wherein the transmitter electronically transmits the notification report to a patient communication device of the patient via, on, or over, at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web or via, on, or over, a wireless communication network, and further wherein the notification report is transmitted to the patient communication device at least one of during, concurrently with, at a same time as, and prior to a completion of, an at least one of an accessing, an obtaining, a changing, an altering, and a modifying, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file by the individual or user, or at least one of during, concurrently with, at a same time as, and prior to a completion of, a processing of the request.

Claim 49. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the apparatus receives a response to the notification report, wherein the response to the notification report is transmitted from the patient communication device, and further wherein the response to the notification report contains information for terminating or denying at least one of an accessing, an obtaining, a changing, an altering, and a modifying, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the

apparatus terminates or denies the at least one of an
accessing, an obtaining, a changing, an altering, and a
modifying, of information contained in the patient's
healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.